T1018 Core-network scanning

Description: An adversary may discover operator network related information (identifiers).

Adversaries may attempt to get a listing of earlier generation systems (e.g. 3G) that do not use IP address, hostname, but instead, other identifiers, such as point codes (like IP addresses for SS7 protocols, point to point) and Global Titles. Examples are GTScan, SigPloit, SCTPScan and GTPScan.

Note: This is scanning for 3G, 4G and 5G core components address info. This is scanning for open ports to determine protocol use without compromising the host/NF.

Labelling:

* Sub-technique(s): No sub-techniques
* Applicable Tactics: Discovery

Metadata:

* Architecture segment: OA&M
* Platforms: 5G Network
* Permissions required: none
* Data Sources:
* Theoretical/Proof of Concept/Observed: Observed

Procedure Examples

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| Specific example if known | If there is a documented instance of this technique occurring in earlier generation or a notional example |
| Use of pen testing tools. | Adversaries may employ pen testing tools such as GTScan, SigPloit, SCTPScan and GTPScan. |

Mitigations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Id** | **Use** |
| If known | Short description of potential mitigations. |
| M1042 | Ensure that unnecessary ports and services are closed to prevent risk of discovery and potential exploitation. |
| M1031 | Use network intrusion detection/prevention systems to detect and prevent remote service scans. |
| M1030 | Ensure proper network segmentation is followed to protect critical servers and devices. |

Pre-Conditions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| If known | Short description of conditions that must be present for technique to be used. |
| Access to scanning tool | Adversaries need access to such tools. |

Critical Assets

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| If known | Short description of the assets that adversary wants to target or that are at risk such as data (system/user, access token, crypto key etc.), capability, service. |
| MNO core network component data. | Data (IP address or FQDN, ports) relating to network nodes. |

Detection

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ID** | **Detects** |
| If known | Short description of possible detection techniques such as logs or sensors. |
| DS0029 | SIEM tools using network firewalls. Detect port scanners. |

Post-Conditions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Description** |
| If known | Short description of potential capabilities achieved by the technique (e.g. escape from container gives control of the host) |
| Identifier of some network nodes is known | Adversary now knows identifiers of some network nodes, and so these nodes can now be spoofed or targeted for Denial of Service. |

References:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **URL** |
| S.P. Rao, S. Holtmanns, T. Aura: “Threat modeling framework for mobile communication systems”, May 2020 | https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.05110v1 |

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SS7/MAP is supported in 5G SA for enabling SMS service. SMSF connects to SMS infrastructure outside of core via MAP/SS7. See section 7.2 of GSMA NG.111 “SMS Evolution”.